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Republican Spending Plan Will Hurt Vulnerable Veterans

Washington, DC - Warning of deep cuts to critical community services, Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04) responded to the Congressional Republicans' proposed budget for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2011. In their plan to reduce the federal budget deficit, House Republicans eliminate a unique \$75 million program designed for helping thousands of America's veterans and their families.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reported on February 10, 2011 that stated, in 2009 "...roughly 136,000 veterans spent at least one night in a shelter during the year." The VA noted that on any given night in 2009 "...nearly 76,000 Veterans were homeless." The Republicans' tough stand against funding for assisting homeless veterans who have served our country is in sharp contrast to their generous efforts last December to increase the federal budget by providing tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires.

"The decision by House Republicans to eliminate important federal support for homeless veterans in favor of deficit reduction is irresponsible and mean-spirited," said Congresswoman McCollum. "It is a shameful commentary on the callous nature of policy making when tax cuts for billionaires are more important than the needs of Americans who served in our Armed Forces and now face hard times. Every veteran deserves the ongoing support of Congress and I will continue to fight for our veterans."

Congresswoman Betty McCollum serves on the House Appropriations and Budget Committees.

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